

Page 9, line 20 change "act" to --acts--.

Page 10, equation 12, change first occurrence of "I1" to --I--

Page 11, line 10, change "requirement" to --requirements--.

Page 11, line 10, change "is" to --are--.

Page 11, line 10, change "he" to --the--.

Page 11, line 11, change "305" to --304--.

Page 11, line 13, change "306" to --305--.

Page 12, line 6, change "burred" to --blurred--.

Page 12, line 11, change "blur" to --blurring--.

Page 12, line 12, change "date" to --data--.

In the Drawings:

Please amend the original Fig. 3 of the drawings in the above-identified application as indicated in red on the attached replacement page.

In the Claims:

1. A method of composing an image from a plurality of images, comprising:
inputting a plurality of the images containing the same objects;
determining a relative position between two of the images based upon a predetermined set of movements;
determining at least one common in-focus area between the two images;
determining an amount of difference in focus in the one common in-focus area between the two images; and
composing an image from the two inputted images based upon the above determined amount of the difference in focus.
7. A system for composing an image from a plurality of images, comprising:
an input unit for inputting a plurality of the images containing the same objects;
and
a processing unit connected to said input unit for determining a relative position between two of the images based upon a predetermined set of movements, said processing unit determining at least one common in-focus area between the two images,

said processing unit determining an amount of difference in focus in the one common in-focus area between the two images, said processing unit composing an image from the two inputted images based upon the above determined amount of the difference in focus.

13. A computer program containing instructions for performing acts of composing an image from a plurality of images, the acts comprising:

- inputting a plurality of the images containing the same objects;
- determining a relative position between two of the images;
- determining at least one common in-focus area between the two images based upon a predetermined set of movements;
- determining an amount of difference in focus in the one common in-focus area between the two images; and
- composing an image from the two inputted images based upon the above determined amount of the difference in focus.

Added 1-12-00
Please add claims ¹⁵~~17~~ through ²⁷~~29~~ as follows:

- ¹⁵~~17~~. A method of composing an image from a plurality of images, comprising:
- inputting a plurality of the images containing the same objects;
 - determining a relative position between two of the images;
 - determining at least one common in-focus area between the two images;
 - dividing each of the inputted images into a predetermined number of blocks;
 - summing pixel values of each of the blocks for each of the inputted images;
 - determining a difference in the summed pixel values between a corresponding pair of the blocks of the inputted images;
 - selecting a block having a largest amount of the difference in the summed pixel values as the common in-focus area;
 - determining an amount of difference in focus in the one common in-focus area between the two images; and
 - composing an image from the two inputted images based upon the above determined amount of the difference in focus.

¹⁶18. The method of composing an image according to claim ¹⁵17 wherein the common in-focus area is user-adjustable.

¹⁷19. The method of composing an image according to claim ¹⁵17 wherein the focus difference determination further comprising:

iteratively low-pass filtering the common in-focus area of one of the inputted images;

determining whether or not the low-pass filtered common in-focus area substantially matches the common in-focus area of another inputted images; and

determining the amount of the focus difference in the one common in-focus area between the two images based upon a number of the iterative low-pass filtering.

¹⁸20. The method of composing an image according to claim ¹⁷19 wherein the amount of the focus difference is user-adjustable.

¹⁹21. The method of composing an image according to claim ¹⁷19 wherein the amount of the focus difference is expressed in a blurring function.

²⁰22. A system for composing an image from a plurality of images, comprising:
an input unit for inputting a plurality of the images containing the same objects;
and

a processing unit connected to said input unit for determining a relative position between two of the images, said processing unit determining at least one common in-focus area between the two images, said processing unit dividing each of the inputted images into a predetermined number of blocks, said processing unit summing pixel values of each of the blocks for each of the inputted images, said processing unit determining a difference in the summed pixel values between a corresponding pair of the blocks of the inputted images, said processing unit selecting a block having a largest amount of the difference in the summed pixel values as the one common in-focus area, said processing unit determining an amount of difference in focus in the one common in-focus area between the two images, said processing unit composing an image from the two inputted images based upon the above determined amount of the difference in focus.

²¹
~~23~~. The system for composing an image according to claim ²⁰~~22~~ wherein the common in-focus area is user-adjustable.

²²
~~24~~. The system for composing an image according to claim ²¹~~23~~ wherein said processing unit iteratively applies a low-pass filter to the common in-focus area of one of the inputted images, said processing unit determining whether or not the low-pass filtered common in-focus area substantially matches the common in-focus area of another inputted images, said processing unit determining the amount of the focus difference in the one common in-focus area between the two images based upon a number of the iterative low-pass filtering.

²³
~~25~~. The system for composing an image according to claim ²²~~24~~ wherein the amount of the focus difference is user-adjustable.

²⁴
~~26~~. The system for composing an image according to claim ²³~~24~~ wherein the amount of the focus difference is expressed in a blurring function.

²⁵
~~27~~. A computer program containing instructions for performing acts of composing an image from a plurality of images, the acts comprising:

- inputting a plurality of the images containing the same objects;
- determining a relative position between two of the images;
- determining at least one common in-focus area between the two images;
- dividing each of the inputted images into a predetermined number of blocks;
- summing pixel values of each of the blocks for each of the inputted images;
- determining a difference in the summed pixel values between a corresponding pair of the blocks of the inputted images;
- selecting a block having a largest amount of the difference in the summed pixel values as the common in-focus area;
- determining an amount of difference in focus in the one common in-focus area between the two images; and